

Labor Resources for Lancaster, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Lancaster, South Carolina. Lancaster is located in Lancaster County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Lancaster.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Lancaster, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	90,156	183,634	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	40,049	82,191	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	3,802	7,511	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	9.5%	9.1%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	435	696	22,196
Average Wages	Lancaster County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$570	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Lancaster, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	40,049	82,191	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-2,697	-5,070	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	90,156	183,634	4,198,068
Change since 2000	16,739	60,814	186,056
Projected 2010	444,556	1,542,279	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	44,183	89,320	2,040,261
Female	45,973	94,314	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	17,671	35,432	875,330
Ages 35-49	20,247	41,314	925,330
Ages 50-64	16,038	32,711	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	43,996	89,310	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	31,316	62,093	778,054
Some College	15,700	32,227	500,194
Associate Degree	5,724	11,335	173,428
Bachelors Degree	7,278	17,358	351,526
Post Bachelor	3,642	8,555	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Lancaster, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	36,247	74,680	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Lancaster County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,174	4,386	12,379
Mining	150	544	1,603
Utilities	983	3,780	11,891
Construction	10,248	37,312	111,730
Manufacturing	28,760	97,902	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	691	2,654	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	1,113	3,486	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	521	2,002	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	2,526	9,420	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	1,843	6,844	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	632	2,430	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	1,549	4,133	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	2,576	9,964	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	368	1,378	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	796	2,650	7,846
Food manufacturing	1,606	5,801	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	119	458	1,445
Textile mills	3,396	13,356	40,207
Textile product mills	1,016	3,587	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	439	1,687	5,321
Paper manufacturing	1,214	4,663	14,710
Printing and related support activities	629	2,362	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	24	91	288
Chemical manufacturing	1,868	7,392	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	1,914	7,387	23,054
Wholesale Trade	5,609	20,688	62,523
Retail Trade	21,039	75,443	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	4,220	15,510	46,941
Education and Health Services	30,469	112,345	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	17,238	63,386	192,748
Professional and Business Services	17,170	61,674	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Lancaster County				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Springs Industries/Grace Fabrication Plt	Lancaster	Sheets & pillowcases	1094	1948
Springs Industries/Grace Finishing Plt	Lancaster	Finish sheeting fabrics	1024	1948
Duracell Global Business Management Group	Lancaster	Alkaline batteries	600	1976
Allegiance Custom Sterile	Fort Mill	Surgery packages	538	1999
US Textile Corp	Lancaster	Women's hosiery	407	1990
ZF Commercial Suspension Systems & Components	Lancaster	Transportation component supplier	202	1989
Belden CDT Networking Division	Fort Mill	Wire and cord products	150	1999
Danaher Controls Inc	Lancaster	Industrial controls-firepump	146	1964
Berkshire Weaving	Lancaster	Upholstery fabrics	128	1998
McClancy Seasoning	Fort Mill	Spices	110	1947
Virtual Image Technology	Fort Mill	Data & microfiche processing	102	1975
Boral Bricks Inc-Van Wyck Plt	Van Wyck	Face Brick	90	1906
Soliant	Lancaster	In-mold decorating films	85	1979
Tag Express/Rico	Lancaster	Flags	70	1987
Davis Neon Inc	Heath Springs	Signs & advertising displays	69	1972
Springs Graphic Services	Lancaster	Offset printing	66	1954
Thomas & Betts	Lancaster	Electrical transmission poles	50	1967
Accutrex Products Inc-Precision Parts Div	Lancaster	Metal stampings	50	1988
Ameristeel-Rail Products Div	Lancaster	Railroad spikes	45	1979
The Lancaster News	Lancaster	Newspapers	45	1852

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	40,049	82,191	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-2,697	-5,070	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	44%	45%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	3,802	7,511	139,607
Unemployment Rate	9.5%	9.1%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	435	696	22,196
Manufacturing	375	628	19,196
Distribution	59	65	1,213
Service		3	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	15,125	31,618	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident area could be a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Lancaster County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	66
Data Processing Technology	66
Engineering Technologies (Total)	110
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	31
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	17
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	118
Industrial Electronics	65
HVAC	19
Precision Production (Total)	23
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	14

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Lancaster County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$570	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$29,638	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Lancaster County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$37,633	\$39,027
Wood product	***	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$40,876	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$33,885	\$37,533
Machinery	\$31,264	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	\$46,900	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$19,958	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$47,520	\$34,350
Food	\$35,068	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$17,651	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Lancaster and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Lancaster Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.17	\$10.94	\$12.91
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$6.12	\$8.72	\$11.52
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	*	*	*
Chemical Equipment Operators	\$15.01	\$16.18	\$17.13
Chemical Plant & System Operators	\$14.40	\$19.47	\$25.17
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	\$9.76	\$11.62	\$13.39
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$11.82	\$14.23	\$16.86
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.85	\$16.32	\$20.12
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$10.85	\$12.76	\$15.02
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	*	*	*
Machinists	\$14.34	\$17.95	\$22.00
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.48	\$11.50	\$13.41
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	*	*	*
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	*	*	*
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$11.24	\$14.02	\$16.17
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$11.86	\$14.40	\$16.99
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$11.74	\$14.58	\$17.76
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Lancaster Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$38,040	\$51,440	\$64,640
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$31,760	\$40,640	\$49,580
Industrial Engineers	\$44,980	\$53,000	\$61,920
Mechanical Engineers	\$47,060	\$60,720	\$68,740

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available